

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 26, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The present Amendment corrects inadvertent informalities in three of the claims. It also adds new dependent claims 75-80 to further protect the invention.

The Office Action rejects claims 56 and 57 for anticipation by Soga et al, and it also rejects claims 58, 61, 63, and 66 for obviousness on the basis of the same reference. The Soga et al reference will hereafter be called simply "Soga." For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions defined by independent claims 56 and 63 are patentable over Soga.

The Office Action draws attention to Soga's Figure 5A, which shows a plurality of chips 1 with resin coats 11 mounted on a substrate 9. Reference number 21 identifies a groove between adjacent chips (see the sentence bridging columns 6 and 7 of the Soga reference). From Soga's Figure 5B, it will be apparent that the sloping surfaces that cooperate to form the groove 21 between chips are, for each chip, symmetrical. That is, each of Soga's structures has four sloping sides. As a result of Soga's symmetrical configuration, Soga's sloping sides cannot be used to determine the orientation of one of Soga's structures.

Independent claim 56 recites "a molding resin structure ... having a first main surface and a second main surface opposite to the first main surface." It also recites "a stripe groove formed on the second main surface of the structure ...". It is respectfully submitted that the sloping sides of Soga's structures, which cooperate to form the grooves

21 between structures, cannot accurately be characterized as being "formed on the second main surface of the structure."

More importantly, claim 56 recites that "the stripe groove divides the second main surface asymmetrically." Soga's sloping sides, though, do not divide the "second main surface" of one of his structures at all. Moreover they are symmetrical; nothing in the reference would suggest dividing the second main surface of one of Soga's structures in an asymmetrical manner.

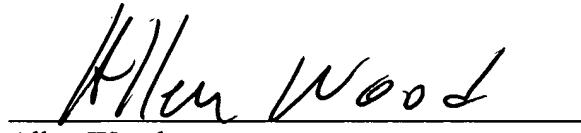
Turning now to independent claim 63, this claim recites "a steplike section formed on one of the sides of the second main surface of the structure." Soga's sloping sides, in contrast, are not located on his "second main surface." Nor can they be used to determine the orientation of Soga's structures.

Since the remaining claims that have been rejected, in addition to all of the new claims that have been added, depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed.

It is noted that this application has been amended to include 25 claims. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$90 is being submitted concurrently. Should this remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, however, any fees that may be needed can be charged to our Deposit Account number 18-0002.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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